GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1131
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
OUTSTANDING AMOUNT AGAINST MTNL SUBSCRIBERS
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)The total outstanding amount of MTNL against telephone subscribers in Delhi as on date and the number of telephone subscribers against whom amount is outstanding alongwith the category thereof; and

(b) The steps taken by the Government to recover the outstanding amounts from telephone subscribers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Total outstanding amount more than six months old as on 31.10.06 against Basic

(including CDMA) Telephone subscribers of MTNL Delhi is Rs. 677.64 cores and less than six months (Current Billing) outstanding is Rs. 58.73 crores. The category-wise more than six months old outstanding amount is as under:

State Rs. 0.58 crores
Central Rs. 6.99 crores
Defence Rs. 2.55 crores
MP Rs. 8.65 crores
Private Rs. 658.87 crores

For GSM subscribers, more than six months old outstanding is Rs. 75.35 crores and less than six months outstanding is Rs. 7.68 crores.

The total Amount Billed for since inception of MTNL upto 31.10.06 is Rs. 73,452.92 crores out of which a total of Rs. 819.40 crores (including current billing) is outstanding as on 31.10.06. The outstanding amount forms 1.12% of the total billed amount.

Bills are issued in respect of post-paid customers only and they are issued after cutomers have availed of telecom facilities. Furhter a time of 21 days is granted to the customers for making the payments of the bills. Therefore, at any point of time, there will be an outstanding due against most of the customers. A total of approximately 58.78 lacs bills are pending payment as on 31.10.06, most of which are current bills.

(b) Various efforts are made towards reduction in outstanding dues namely-

(i) Automated telephone reminders are made to the subscribers who default in making the payments of their telephone bills.

(ii) Further, action of disconnection of the telephone including disconnection of other working connections of the subscribers, if any, are also initiated.

(iii) Legal notices are, thereafter, served to the subscribers.

(iv) In the event of above efforts not yielding results, recovery suits are filed in the court of law wherever possible.

(v)An attempt has also been made to recover old outstanding dues, through recovery agents.